



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health
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Youth Restaurant Cashier Shot to Death during Attempted Robbery

BACKGROUND

Each year in the United States, approximately 70 adolescents die from injuries at work. Hundreds more are hospitalized, and tens of thousands require treatment in hospital emergency rooms. The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received 102 reports of occupational fatalities in 2000, including 5 cases of workers under age 18.

This fact sheet describes one of those incidents and requests that safety professionals and retail employers bring the information to the attention of youth workers, their families, schools, and co-workers.

THE INCIDENT

A 16-year-old female restaurant cashier died when she was shot during a robbery. The victim was the daughter of the owners of the small restaurant where the incident occurred. She assisted with most of the business activities including food preparation, receiving customers' food orders, and tending the cash register. At the time of the incident, she was standing behind the service counter, near the cash register. Her father was in the back of the restaurant, and her mother was standing next to her.

A man entered the restaurant, pointed a handgun at the victim's head and demanded money. Almost immediately, the gun fired in the victim's face. She collapsed to the floor, and the assailant ran from the building. The victim's father notified the security company, while the victim's mother called for emergency services. The EMS and police responded. The victim was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The following types of work are especially hazardous to adolescents:

- *Working in or around motor vehicles*
- *Operating tractors and other heavy equipment*
- *Working near electrical hazards*
- *Working in retail and service businesses where there is a risk of robbery*
- *Working on ladders, scaffolds, roofs or construction sites*
- *Working around cooking appliances*
- *Continuous manual lifting and lifting of heavy objects*

RECOMMENDATION:

To prevent homicide in the workplace, business owners should develop and implement violence prevention programs in each workplace including:

- *Management commitment and employee involvement*
- *Worksite analysis (e.g. risk factors, incident records and safety audits)*
- *Hazard prevention and control*
- *Safety and health training*
- *Evaluation*

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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